

Pat has served the foundation in various capacities, such as board member and sponsorship and silent auction committee member for the Art of Healing Gala. Passionate about her service to the community, Pat has been involved not only with Porter-Starke, but with numerous other organizations and fundraising efforts, including: the Valparaiso Ethics Committee, Parkinson Style Show, American Heart Association, Valparaiso YMCA, Children's Museum of Valparaiso, United Way of Porter County, Crisis Center, Boys and Girls Club, American Cancer Society, and Special Kids Special Needs, to name a few.

Rob Thorgren has been a volunteer with the Valparaiso YMCA for the past five years. A leader within the organization and his community, Rob has served in many capacities with the YMCA. He has served on the Board of Directors, as a Strong Kids Campaigner, and as a special events volunteer. Additionally, he has served as a member of the Capital Campaign Development Committee and the Building Committee for the new Valparaiso Family YMCA.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding individuals on their recognition as honored volunteers by the Valparaiso Kiwanis Club Foundation. Their years of service and dedication have played a major role in shaping the future of Northwest Indiana, and each of the honorees is truly an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH COHN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fine work of Deborah Cohn, Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Operations at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), for her leadership in promoting government telework. As a result of her ingenuity and perseverance with this program, Ms. Cohn spearheaded the development of the USPTO's telework program at a time when telework was unconventional, and her efforts have paid off as the program is among the most successful telework programs within the Federal workforce.

This year, the Trademark Work at Home (TWAH) program is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Established in March of 1997, TWAH began as a pilot program with 18 telework volunteers. Today, TWAH is the most successful and progressive program in the Federal Government, involving 85 percent of eligible trademark examining attorneys, who work 4 days per week at home.

The USPTO, located in my congressional district in Alexandria, VA, has received many distinguished awards for opening doors to its telework program. These include the most recent 2007 Work-Life Innovative Excellence Award from the Alliance for Work-Life Progress—the highest honor offered by the organization, which was created to showcase programs and policies that demonstrate excellence in promoting work-life effectiveness while achieving institutional goals. Other notable awards include those from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the

Telework Exchange, the MidAtlantic Telework Advisory Council, and the International Telework Association and Council.

The Trademark telework program is a successful model for other governmental agencies. Combining management by objective with hoteling results in proven space and related cost savings for the agency. The program also demonstrates that flexibility of schedules and location enables employees to maximize their working efficiency, which is reflected in production gains by its participants and the Office. The extremely low attrition rate experienced by the TWAH participants shows that agencies facing recruitment and retention problems would be well-served by offering telecommuting options, similar to those of the USPTO, to attract and retain qualified workers.

I have been a longtime advocate of commuter friendly policies such as telecommuting. Proven benefits include helping to offset the high price of gasoline, continuity of operations in the case of a future threat or disaster, improved air quality, reduction in traffic congestion, increased employee productivity and work quality, improved employee morale, and employee cost savings. As the Nation's largest employer, the Federal Government should be the leader in telework policy. The USPTO serves as the gold standard for the Federal Government thanks to the efforts of Deborah Cohn.

Ms. Deborah Cohn is a graduate of The American University and George Mason University School of Law. She began her career at the USPTO in 1983 as a trademark examining attorney, was promoted to senior attorney and then managing attorney, and then joined the Senior Executive Service as a Trademark Law Office Director in 2001. Ms. Cohn was named Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Operations in 2005 whereby she currently oversees the examination and processing of applications throughout the trademark operation and works with other USPTO business units in achieving agency goals.

Throughout her legal career at the USPTO, Ms. Cohn has been involved in work-life improvement initiatives. She is a former Council of Excellence in Government fellow where she first began developing the TWAH program. Ms. Cohn is a sought after resource, speaker, and expert on the development and management of telework programs.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating Ms. Cohn's efforts in making the USPTO's telework program the most successful program within the Federal Government. I also ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Trademark Work at Home program.

CONGRATULATING THE AMBASSADOR OF GREECE TO THE UNITED STATES, MR. ALEXANDROS MALLIAS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Ambassador of Greece to the United States, Mr. Alexandros Mallias, who was recently honored by the B'nai B'rith International Center for Jewish Culture for his commitment to advancing Jewish-Greek relations.

As part of its "Odyssey of the Jews of Greece" series of cultural events, B'nai B'rith International recognized the efforts of Ambassador Mallias in working with American Jewish organizations to promote a closer relationship between Greece and Israel. B'nai B'rith Executive Vice President Dan Mariaschin expressed the organization's gratitude to Ambassador Mallias and highlighted the long history of the Jewish people in Greece.

On a personal note, my own family was part of that history. My great grandparents and maternal grandmother emigrated from Greece to the United States, and many of those family members they left behind in the Jewish community of Thessaloniki perished at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust.

I would like to congratulate Ambassador Mallias, and insert his remarks into the RECORD.

(A) RELATIONS BETWEEN GREEKS AND JEWS THROUGH THE CENTURIES

Greeks and Jews are connected by history, geography, monotheistic religions, philosophy, trade, social sciences, arts.

The two peoples have been interacting since the beginning of recorded history. There is recorded presence of Jews in the Greek world, what Jews first named Gentiles, centuries before Christ. The presence of Jewish community in Thessaloniki, the capital of Macedonia, goes back to the 2nd century BC.

The most important sites of Christianity in the Holy Land are under the supervision of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate. It is a unique and the most ancient surviving institution on earth.

Over the years, Greece has forged strong ties with Israel. Bilateral relations are at a very good level. Political, economic and cultural relations have gained their own dynamic.

(B) HOLOCAUST

During the Second World War, Greek Jews shared the fate of their fellow Jews all over the continent in the hands of the Third Reich.

According to the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece: "When, during the German occupation, the hateful campaign against the Jews started, their Christian compatriots showed compassion and solidarity."

Archbishop of Greece Damaskinos declared: "We are all Jews." He filed to the German Authorities 2 petitions asking them to stop the persecution of the Jews. The petitions were undersigned by 29 leading cultural institutions and professional bodies of the country, including the Academy of Athens. Many ordinary Greeks in rural Greece and big cities risked their lives and the lives of their families by sheltering Greek Jews.

Fortunately, the decimated Greek Jewish community with the assistance of the state and energized by its unique spiritual inheritance survived the massacre of the Holocaust. Today the Greek Jews have reclaimed their rightful position among the most dynamic and progressive segments of the Greek society.

The message of the Holocaust: Never Again.

(C) INDICATIVE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE GREEK STATE.

First post World War II Greek Government was the first among European countries to pass legislation for the restitution of the property confiscated by the German occupation Forces. Unclaimed property did not revert to the state but was given to the Jewish Community.

Designation by Law 3218/2004 of the 27th of January as the day of Remembrance of the

Holocaust. Legislation was praised by many members of the US Congress.

Greece became a full member of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (Cracow Session 12–18 November 2005).

Memorials have been erected in many cities throughout Greece.

Public TV often shows documentaries and historical series on the Holocaust.

Since school year 2005–2006, the Holocaust is included in the curriculum of the third grade Lyceum (age 17–18 years old) entitled “War crimes—the Holocaust” and students are tested at the end of the school year.

An extensive revision of textbooks is being undertaken by the Pedagogical Institute. A new textbook and teachers’ guidelines will be issued next year. Textbooks of primary and secondary education are also being revised.

(D) HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE

Greece has firmly condemned pronouncements by the Iranian President calling for Israel to be wiped-off the map and denying the indisputable fact of the Holocaust. How would anyone deny this fact when the Greek-Jewish community almost vanished during the German occupation of Greece?

The unique historic perspective of the Jewish people guarantees that the issue of Macedonia is well understood. After all, one of the most ancient and flourishing Greek-Jewish communities is in Thessaloniki. Jews from Macedonia who after WW II emigrated to Israel or the US are proud for their Greek inheritance.

History transcends national borders. It belongs to all of us. Political differences cannot justify the distortion of history in any form. Greeks and Jews understand that.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF ARMY SPECIALIST CASEY W. NASH

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Army Specialist Casey W. Nash, who died the eighteenth of May two-thousand seven in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specialist Nash and two other soldiers were killed by an improvised explosive device in Tahrir, Iraq. He died of serious injuries when the roadside-improvised explosive device detonated near his unit. Specialist Nash enlisted in the Army in February 2003, shortly after graduating from Eastern Technical High School, where he played football. Casey was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. Casey served as a fire support specialist and his duties included mapping coordinates and driving a Humvee. He was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Casey Nash was born in Pasadena, Texas, and moved to Middle River, Maryland with his family when he was a child. He attended Victory Villa Elementary School and Middle River Middle School before attending Eastern Technical High School. Casey moved to Essex, Maryland with his mother, Sandra Nash, and his sister while he was in high school.

The Eastern Technical High School alumnus is succeeded by his father, Lewis Nash, his mother, Ms. Sandra L. Nash, his sister, Sara

Nash, and many family members in Middle River and Essex, Maryland.

Madam Speaker, today I ask that you join with me in honoring the life of a man truly dedicated to serving his Country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I regret that I did not vote on rollcall vote No. 400, on May 22, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted: “Yea” on rollcall No. 400 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2399, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to combat the crime of alien smuggling and related activities and for other purposes.

IN TRIBUTE TO TERESA KIRKEENG-KINCAID

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Teresa Kirkeeng-Kincaid, a remarkable civil servant who dedicated her entire career to making her community, the Illinois River basin, the Upper Mississippi River Region and her Nation a better place. Teresa passed away last week at the young age of 48, after a courageous battle against cancer. Her legacy, however, will continue long into the future. Teresa dedicated her entire professional life to working for the Federal Government. I have long believed that government service is a high and important calling. The hours are often long, the pressures are great, and the monetary compensation is frequently lower than what is available in the private sector. Teresa was one of those individuals who was more concerned with making a difference than making a fortune. Teresa joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a civil engineer with the Rock Island District in 1981, and continued with the Corps for 26 years. In that time, she served in many roles, including Assistant Chief of the Planning, Program and Project Management Division.

During her two and a half decades of service, Teresa earned a reputation on the Illinois River basin, the Upper Mississippi Region and across the Nation as a public servant of great dedication and integrity. She played a leadership role in formulating navigation, flood damage, and ecosystem restoration projects throughout the entire Upper Mississippi River basin. She was the “go to person” throughout the Corps of Engineers on numerous planning issues. The team she led reestablished the Corps’ Planning Associates program to train future planners for the Corps, a legacy that will last for many decades.

I had the occasion to meet Teresa several times, and know the very high regard in which she was held by her co-workers, her countless friends, and her loving family. It is my hope they will take solace in the fact that through more than two decades of doing the day-to-

day work of democracy, Teresa Kirkeeng-Kincaid truly earned the title of “hero.”

“DEAMONTE’S LAW,” H.R. 2371

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce that I have introduced “Deamonte’s Law,” H.R. 2371, a bill to establish a dental home for every American child by increasing dental services in community health centers and training more individuals in pediatric dentistry.

The legislation is named for Deamonte Driver, a 12-year-old Maryland boy who died on February 25, 2007, when a tooth infection spread to his brain. A routine dental checkup might have saved his life, but Deamonte was poor and homeless and he did not have access to a dentist.

When I learned of this senseless tragedy, I was deeply shaken. I simply cannot comprehend how, in this country where we have sent a man to the moon, we let a little boy’s teeth rot so badly that his infection became fatal.

I often say that as adults, we have a responsibility to provide for and protect our children—and we failed to meet that responsibility for little Deamonte.

I think we all should be ashamed by that fact. I know I am.

That is why I have made a commitment to addressing this issue from every angle. I knew that if Deamonte was suffering in my home state of Maryland, other little boys and girls like him were probably also suffering.

To be clear, Deamonte’s case was rare and extreme; however, even the most casual investigation reveals that children across the country are living with painful, untreated tooth decay, many of them dangerously close to acquiring life-threatening infections.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that tooth decay in baby teeth has increased 15 percent among United States toddlers and preschoolers 2 to 5 years old, between 1988 to 1994 and 1994 to 2004;

Tooth decay is the single most common childhood chronic disease, and it disproportionately affects poor and minority children;

Eighty percent of dental decay occurs in just 25 percent of children; and

Parents are three times more likely to report that their children’s dental needs are unmet, when compared with general medical care needs.

A silent epidemic of dental disease is plaguing our children, and our inability to address this issue has had horrifying effects.

That is why I have introduced “Deamonte’s Law,” H.R. 2371, which would address two critical factors contributing to the inability of children like Deamonte to access a dentist:

“Deamonte’s Law” would ensure that children like Deamonte have access to dental services in the communities where they live. Community health centers provide a health safety net to underserved areas, such as